

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 28, 2010

Richard M. Freeland  
Commissioner  
Massachusetts Department of Higher Education  
One Ashburton Place, Room 1401  
Boston, MA 02108

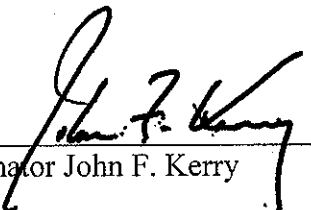
Dear Commissioner Freeland,

We are writing to you to express our strong support for the creation of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth School of Law through the donation of the Southern New England School of Law (SNE SL). We believe this law school will expand learning opportunities to citizens of Massachusetts and beyond, and benefit the region's economic development. The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth has always been committed to serving the needs of its students by making faculty, staff and students available to the industries predominantly located in the southeastern Massachusetts region.

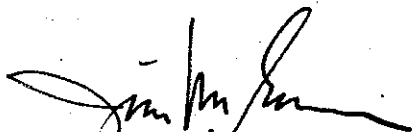
At a time when the country is focused on economic development and job creation, this law school will provide many more highly motivated and talented students the opportunity to further their education. The university will accelerate the final accreditation process for this school and, as a result, help create a more educated workforce to compete in a global marketplace.

Key sectors of the Massachusetts economy – marine sciences, fisheries, textile manufacturing and an emerging biotechnology industry – have significantly benefitted from their relationship with the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. The university has become an economic engine for the Commonwealth and will become an even stronger asset for Massachusetts with the creation of this public law school.

We realize the Board of Higher Education has carefully considered the creation of this law school and urge timely approval of this proposal so that the state's first public law school class can be enrolled in September 2010. Thank you for your leadership on this important decision for the Commonwealth's future.


  
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Senator John F. Kerry

  
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Congressman Barney Frank



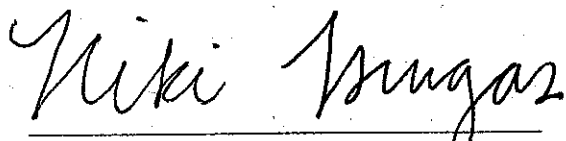
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Congressman James P. McGovern



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Congressman John W. Olver



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Congresswoman Niki Tsongas



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Congressman Michael E. Capuano